

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 ORM-02 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /060 W

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P 150555Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9460

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: EIGHT SESSION TRIAL OF KIM CHI-HA

REF: SEOUL 6876

1. EIGHTH SESSION OF KIM CHI-HA TRIAL TOOK PLACE SEPTEMBER 14. KIM SONG-O, WHO HAD ATTENDED UNIVERSITY WITH KIM CHI-HA, WAS THE ONLY WITNESS QUESTIONED. HE DESCRIBED KIM CHI-HA'S IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AS A STUDENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT KIM LIKE ALL STUDENTS AT THAT TIME HAD ACCESS TO MAJOR COMMUNIST WORKS, BUT KIM WAS NEVER A COMMUNIST. HE BELIEVED KIM CHI-HA WAS ORIGINALLY AN EXISTENTIALIST. AFTER HIS CONVERSION TO CATHOLICISM, KIM'S PHILOSOPHY WAS BROADENED TO INCLUDE A SENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY. HE BELIEVED THAT KIM CHI-HA'S INTEREST IN POLITICS WHILE HE WAS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT WAS DEFINITELY SECOND TO HIS INTEREST IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY.

2. COURT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD HEAR TWO MORE DEFENSE WITNESSES, FATHERS MUN CHONG-HYON AND HAM SE-UNG. SINCE BOTH HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN THE MYONGDONG TRIAL, COURT WOULD ARRANGE TO HEAR THEIR TESTIMONY ON THE KIM CHI-HA'S CASE AT THE PRISON IN THE PRESENCE OF DEFENSE AND PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECUTION LAWYERS. COURT SCHEDULED NEXT SESSION FOR SEPTEMBER 21.

3. THE SESSION WAS WELL ATTENDED AS THOSE PARTICULARLY  
INTERESTED IN THE FATE OF KIM CHI-HA OR IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
STRUGGLE IN GENERAL MAINTAINED THEIR SHOW OF MORAL SUPPORT  
DESPITE THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE MYONG-  
DONG TRIAL.  
STERN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SEOUL07351  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760347-0699  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SEOUL 6876  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EIGHT SESSION TRIAL OF KIM CHI-HA  
**TAGS:** PINT, KS, (KIM CHI-HA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006